

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
DISTRICT I**

December 2, 2002

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Treatha Brown Foster
Joann Hartig*
Kenneth Hemmen
Lori Lawrence
Lois Tully-Gerber
James Thompson
Debby Moore
Celina Porter Robinson

Members Absent

Council Member Brewer
Rickie Coleman
Sharon Meyers
Steve Roberts*
Carrie Jones Williams
Ken Woodard
Willard Walker

Guest List

Sunday Okoro, 1411 N. Hydraulic
Theola Cooper, 1618 New York
Michael Ranford, 1756 S. Main
Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman
Roosevelt Ellis, 1555 N. Battin
Sareta Jones, 1237 N. Pennsylvania
Ola Parks, 1628 E. 11th
Carl Ligon, 1736 N.E. Parkway
Pat Thompson, 623 N. Volutsia
Willie Burton, 2356 N. Poplar
Debra Miller, 1431 S. Hillside
Joan Ware, 1320 Pennsylvania
Warren Pyles, 1406 N. Pennsylvania

Staff Present

Ernest Garcia, City of Wichita
Officer Jones #1910, Patrol North Police Department
Officer Dana McElrath, Patrol North Police Department
Mark Bradshaw, Environmental Health
Paul Gunzelman, Public Works
Jim Armour, Public Works
Virdena Gilkey, Community Education Coordinator

*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Pro-tem Ken Hemmen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve, DAB I minutes **Porter Robinson (Thompson)**. Motion carried (7-0)

Approval of Agenda

Pro-tem Ken Hemmen asked if there were any additions to the agenda. **Ms. Saretta Jones**, representative for the Pennsylvania Avenue Neighborhood Association, and **Mr. Carl Ligon**, representative for the Ken Mar Neighborhood Association, requested to speak on the Public Agenda. **Pro-tem Ken Hemmen** then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **Brown Foster (Thompson)** made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Ms. Jones and Mr. Ligon. Motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled items – no items submitted.

2. Off-agenda items

2a. Pennsylvania Neighborhood Association

Saretta Celestine-Jones represented residents of the Pennsylvania Neighborhood Association, and inquired about the validity of rumors in the community that the City of Wichita would be closing 10th, 11th, and 13th Street under the Canal Route of I-35. She commented that she would like to know when, where, and if those streets will be closed. Ms. Jones added that Pennsylvania street is less than a block from I-35 and 13th Street and is a dead end street because of the canal. She would prefer that none of those streets close.

James Thompson asked if she was aware if the rumor was that the streets were permanently or temporarily closed? **Jones** responded that she was told that these streets would be closed for the construction of a walking and bike trail.

Jim Armour, Public Works Department, was present and explained that 10th, 11th, and 15th Streets all have bridges that cross the canal. He stated that there are currently funds for the rehabilitation of bridges at those sites. There is the possibility of replacing one or two of those bridges with a pedestrian bridge. Armour further stated that a traffic study would be conducted and presented to DAB 1 for recommendation before any work will be done.

Lois Tully-Gerber asked if information would be received by the DAB members and the neighbors prior to the information being presented at the DAB meeting? She commented that many times residents come before the DAB Members with information they have not received and therefore, cannot properly address. **Jim Armour** responded that they do the best they can to get the information to the DAB Members; however, they will do a better job in 2003.

Action: The board requested that Public Works provide information on this project prior to the January 2003 meeting.

2b. Ken Mar Neighborhood Association

Carl Ligon, representing the residents of the Ken Mar Neighborhood Association, addressed an on-going concern of the neighborhood of the area east of Oliver to Old Manor. Ligon stated that there is a major problem with vehicle accidents in the area due to the lack of adequate stop signs, the lack of yield signs, and the lack of a cross walk in an area where a daycare facility is housed.

Ligon added that he had spoken with the Police Department and with a Traffic Engineer and both were to conduct a study of the traffic to ascertain if installing traffic lights were warranted and he has not heard from either entity. He then read, in part, a letter that was handed out to the DAB Members (attached).

The DAB Members made the following comments:

- A radar trailer was supposed to be installed in that area to address this issue, but no trailer has ever been seen in this area.
- According to Officer Demby, a study has already been conducted and there was not enough traffic in the area to warrant a traffic sign (Officer Demby was not present to verify this comment).
- Concerned mostly about the area where the daycare facility is located and how traffic might affect children.
- 13th Street, east of Hillside had several speeders pulled over.

The DAB Members asked the following questions:

- Is Kensington Street near 17th and Oliver? Is there not a stop light in that area?
- Are you referencing one particular area or the entire Ken Mar area?

Ligon responded that there are no stop signs at Kensington and he suggested a crosswalk and a slow traffic light at that location. He then began to read excerpts from the letter he presented to the board.

Roosevelt Ellis, Ken Mar Neighborhood Association President, addressed the board by stating that this is also a commercial area that with growth will automatically increase the flow of traffic. He further stated that numerous accidents have occurred due to people increasing their speed to go through the traffic light. Ellis also said that the Quik Trip Neighborhood Association is also concerned.

Paul Gunzelman, Public Works, reported that he has ordered a traffic count and is researching the history of that particular area. He stated that information would be provided to the DAB Members and the residents once the report has been completed.

Action: The board deferred comment on this item until a traffic report is provided by Public Works.

Staff Reports

3. Community Police Report

Officer Dana McElrath, Police Beat ##, reported that the Police Department had received notice from the Criminal Justice Department that the area had been re-certified as a Weed and Seed site. He stated that the through this program the Police would address three areas: 1) truancy; 2) domestic violence; and 3) drive by shootings.

McElrath added that residents could call 303-8019 or 688-9500 to receive specific crime reports for their area. He then introduced Officer Jones.

DAB Members asked the following questions:

- Since the School Resource Officers (SROs) in are the schools, what part of truancy will be addressed?
- How will Police concentrate on domestic violence?
- Since drive-bys are low and burglaries are up, how will Weed and Seed help in this area?
- Is Officer Demby being replaced?
- Will the beats change in January 2003?

Officer McElrath responded that he would need additional time to answer all questions regarding the Weed and Seed program. He answered that he was not Officer Demby's replacement and yes, the beats will change in January 2003.

Action: The board received and filed the report.

4. Environmental Health

Mark Bradshaw, Environmental Health, provided a report on code enforcement violations for the third quarter of 2002 and explained several areas in the data (attached). He reported that they are now using the Tidemark System and will be able to provide specific reports by districts.

Bradshaw added that the Environmental Health Department is conducting more nuisance abatements and has been given more support by the Council through funds appropriated for nuisance abatement.

Brown Foster commented on the continual problem with junk cars and referenced the policy on the towing of vehicles. **Hartig** questioned whether vehicles could be towed from the yard and if this can be done.

Porter Robinson explained the ticketing of vehicles that repeatedly violate the parking and storing ordinance, which leads to towing. **Tully Gerber** inquired to the limit on the number of vehicles that are owned and parked.

Warren Pyles, 1406 N. Pennsylvania, inquired if all zones would be consistent throughout the city and if clarification on these guidelines would be provided to the citizens? **Mark Bradshaw** responded that they will be as consistent as possible but much would depend upon the workload of the staff. He explained that there are currently two districts each for three staff members to cover but they try to be as consistent as possible.

Action: The board received and filed the report.

Public Works

5. Arterial Sidewalk Program – Capital Improvement Program

Paul Gunzelman, Public Works, presented information regarding District I sidewalk construction along arterials. He reported that the CIP has \$450,000 each year for arterial sidewalks (\$50,000) and wheelchair ramps (\$400,000) and that his department has prioritized missing sidewalks in Districts I and V.

Gunzelman provided a list of areas of sidewalk priorities for District I for the DAB Members to consider. He also reported that he viewed the highest priority for District I on Hydraulic Street between 16th and 19th street. Gunzelman asked the board to list the top three areas that they consider a priority. He also stated that they could include areas not provided on the list.

Brown Foster commented that the area of 37th – Oliver to Hillside shown on the priority list should be reconsidered, as very little development exists in this area to warrant a sidewalk. **Tully-Gerber** suggested that the board needed more time to make a sound judgment and to drive these areas. **Porter Robinson** inquired as to how the list was compiled and by whom. **Gunzelman** responded that his staff was responsible for compiling the list, however, he would work with Council Member Brewer and the DAB 1 members to ensure that the priority list reflected the wishes of the community. **Hemmen** reported that a new elementary school (Linwood) would be constructed and suggested that they revisit the necessity for a sidewalk recommended for that area. **Debbie Moore** stated that there are no sidewalks on Douglas between Edgemoor and Woodlawn.

Board Members recommended that the areas of 25th and Grove to Hillside and 21st Street on the west side of Cessna be added to the list of sidewalk priorities.

Brown Foster (Tully-Gerber) moved that this item be re-presented at the District I DAB meeting in January 2003 for the board's recommendation from the list with the suggested revisions. Motion carried (7-0).

Action: Board voted 7-0 that staff revise the list as suggested and the Board review again at January meeting.

6. Proposal for Left-turn Lanes

Jim Armour, Public Works, presented a proposed project to construct left turn lanes on 13th Street at Hydraulic. He stated that the project had been postponed until 2003 due to the major construction at the 21st Street exit.

Armour explained that the bids for the project are due in February 2003 and the construction will begin in March or April of 2003. He stated that there would be a protected left turn signal with a permissive green light. Armour added that it is proposed that one lane of traffic both ways is accessible for traffic flow, but that may be a problem due to the narrow lanes. If this is a problem, one side or the other may be closed.

The board discussed the 13th Street traffic coming from the bypass exit, which has caused more accidents and the closing of the 21st Street exit, which added traffic to 13th street. There was concern by a member as to whether Pennsylvania Street would be closed during this construction phase and additionally where the construction would begin and end.

There was added discussion as to what the affect would be to the landowners and an inquiry was made as to what happened to the widening of 13th Street?

Brown Foster (Porter Robinson) moved to approve proposed project to construct left turn lanes on 13th Street at Hydraulic. Motion carried (7-0).

Action: Motion passed 7-0 to recommend approval of proposed project.

Unfinished Business -No items submitted.

Planning - No items submitted.

New Business - No items submitted.

Board Agenda

7. Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

The Neighborhood Matching Grant Review Committee presented received applications and their recommendations to the full DAB board for approval/denial of applications.

Pro-tem Hemmen represented the Neighborhood Matching Grant Committee and explained the recommendation reached by the committee on each item.

- Application # 9 – Calvary Christian School
Hemmen explained that the application process clearly states who is eligible to receive funding and the committee decided that Calvary Christian School is not eligible to receive funding for roof repair because they are a privately owned business. He further stated that the request exceeded the amount they could receive and that their request was not neighborhood driven.

Hemmen (Thompson) made a motion to decline the request for funding by Calvary Christian School. Motion carried 7-0.

- Application # 10 –District I Neighborhoods Coalition for Grove Park
This item was deferred until the end due to the amount of the request and the time needed to discuss this item.
- Application # 11 –Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association
Hemmen explained that the committee did not view this request as a significant new issue from the previous funds of \$2,500 granted and therefore recommended denial of this request.

Hemmen (Thompson) made a motion that the Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association request be declined.

Dorothy Nave, Vice President of Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association, explained the process that the association has gone through for the signage and that the initial cost has decreased from \$20,000 to \$8,500. Nave stated that the main cost is the bricklaying, which does not include the cost of the sign. She added that Hilltop Nursery would donate \$3,000 in shrubbery. She commented that they are trying to get the residents motivated and proud about their neighborhood and that the neighborhood is filled with economically disadvantaged residents, therefore, they are requesting additional funding from the committee.

Thompson inquired about the size of the sign. He commented that the original signage was, in his opinion, too large. Thompson added that the additional concern of the committee was placing an \$8,000 to \$10,000 sign on private property. **Tully-Gerber** commented that her initial reaction was that this proposal was no different from the first one submitted. She stated that she had concerns about the first sign and then inquired about the reputation of the company they are now using. Tully-Gerber explained that after hearing the presentation from the association, she is now changing her views. **Brown Foster** commented that she did not see the problem with a sign going on private property and that the association had a written agreement with the owner that should the property be sold, the new owners could not remove the sign. **Lawrence** stated that the problem arises because this sign would be placed on privately owned land and not on common land, which is the case in all other neighborhoods.

Hemmen asked that the discussion end and the motion be voted upon. The motion carried 4-3 (**Brown Foster, Tully-Gerber, Porter Robinson**)

Action: Board recommended by a vote of 4-3 to deny the request by Millair Neighborhood Association.

- Application # 12 – Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Hemmen explained that the committee recommended that this program be funded for \$1,000 this year.
Hemmen (Thompson) made a motion to allocate \$1,000 to the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. The motion carried 6-1 (**Brown Foster abstained**).

Action: Board recommended 6-1 to award \$1,000 to Fairmount Neighborhood Association.

- Application # 13 – TCV Publishing – Recognition Awards Program
Hemmen explained that the committee decided not to fund this program because there was not enough neighborhood participation. He stated that this proposal was more business based than neighborhood driven.
Hemmen (Thompson) made a motion to decline the request for funding by the TCV Publishing Recognition Award Program.

Brown Foster inquired if this program was in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Celebration. **Tully-Gerber** commented that in looking at the letter and the request for 13 trophies at \$135 each and a \$3,000 reception, she did not feel that the funding request should be approved due to the expense of the project. **Porter Robinson** explained that Benita Gooch was given a short amount of time to write this proposal, so the true essence of why the funds are needed was not made clear. She stated that the committee did not get to review the proposal before Ms. Gooch submitted the request. Porter Robinson added various details of the celebration and the cost associated with each event.

Hemmen asked for a vote on the motion. Motion carried 6-1 (**Brown Foster abstained**).

Action: Board recommended 6-1 to deny the application request.

- Application # 10 –District I Neighborhoods Coalition for Grove Park

Hemmen explained that the committee acknowledged that the project exceeds the \$5,000 limit for funding, but the committee considered that the request was submitted for multiple neighborhood associations.

Hemmen (Thompson) made a motion to accept the proposal of the District I Neighborhood Coalition for Grove Park for the remaining \$13,700.

Tully-Gerber stated she believed that the committee missed the boat with Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association's request. She inquired as to the probability of withholding part of the funding for them and subtracting that from the recommended amount for the Grove Park project. Tully-Gerber added that she supports the request, but not for that amount. **Hemmen** explained that the motion was not addressing the issue, but is to utilize the remaining funds for Grove Park. **Tully-Gerber** added that this grant proposal has a lot of long-term follow-up with the implementation of programs such as adopt-a-park, etc.

Sareta Jones asked if the bike path would be funded by the City of Wichita? She commented that with money from the City of Wichita and KDOT, all of the remaining funds should not be spent in one place. **Willie Burton**, Matlock Heights Neighborhood Association President, commented that the coalition consists of several neighborhood groups, which could have asked for \$5,000 each, but elected to jointly request for less. Burton stated that this funding request is for the beautification of the park entrance way at 27th Street to the north of Hillside. He explained that they currently have an application in to KDOT for the funding of the bike path and that the City of Wichita has only allocated \$1.5 million dollars over the span of 10 years, leaving the coalition to raise a lot of funds.

Tully-Gerber (Brown Foster) made a motion to amend the previous motion and reduce the allocated funds by \$2,500. The motion failed 3 to 4 (Hemmen, Thompson, Lawrence, Moore).

Pro-tem Hemmen then called for a vote on the original motion. Motion carried 6-1 with one abstention (Brown Foster).

Action: Board recommended 6-1 to award District I Neighborhood Coalition \$13,700.

Moore complimented the Neighborhood Matching Grant Review Committee on an excellent job.

8. **Volunteers to Test City's New Web Design**

Board Members from each DAB have been requested to provide feedback for the design and functionality of a new design for the City's website. Each DAB is asked to designate 1-3 members.

Hemmen inquired as to the board members who would be interested in serving in this capacity. **Meyer** and **Hartig** volunteered.

It was unanimously agreed upon by a verbal vote that **Meyer** and **Hartig** would be the designated volunteers for DAB I.

General Comments/Announcements

- District I Coalition Meeting December 14, Spears Restaurant
- Wichita YMCA – North Branch and Koch Aquatic Center Grand Opening, December 7, 2002
- Next meeting of DAB I will be January 6, 2002.

Being no further business, **Thompson (Porter Robinson)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.
The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Virdena Gilkey
Community Education Coordinator
Interim